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FARM FRIENDLY



There's time for "horse-ing" around at Wednesday's farm safety camp for (from left) Silas Big Eagle, Laine Keller, KrystaBelle Kosters and Bella Nissen. The Yankton County Extension office sponsored the camp, which featured eight stations at the Yankton County 4-H Building.

RANDY DOCKENDORF/P&D

Farm Safety Day Camp Raises Awareness Of Farm Dangers

BY RANDY DOCKENDORF
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Bill Showers provided shocking news Wednesday to a group of youngsters.

Shocking, as in the dangers of live wires and other electric hazards.

The Bon Homme-Yankton Electric spokesman was one of the presenters at the Farm Safety Day Camp sponsored by the Yankton County Extension office.

Showers had set up a display filled with situations where individuals could get injured or even killed. At one station, the contact set off sparks that made the whole area smell of smoke.

"Electricity helps in daily life, but there is also the danger that something may happen," he said. "You need to respect electricity."

It's just one message that will hopefully save a life, said Lauren Fosheim, the 4-H youth development program assistant for Yankton County.

Sixty young people from southeast South Dakota

and northeast Nebraska attended Wednesday's camp, Fosheim said. The event reached a crucial age group, she said.

"Farm kids don't wait until they're 16 to work on the farm. They start at younger ages," she said. "It's important to reach them at this age. We hope to expose them to the hazards."

In that way, young people can take needed precautions at home or on the farm, she said.

"We are seeing many of these accidents hit close to home," she said. "Education is the best way to prevent accidents."

The following topics and presenters were part of Wednesday's safety camp:

- Electricity: Bill Showers, Bon Homme-Yankton Electric;
- Chemical: Tom Schramm, Yankton County Weed Supervisor;
- Bicycle/Seatbelt: Scot Woodmancy, Yankton

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Auditor: Neb. Insurance Program Was Mismanaged

Review Finds Hundred's Of Thousands In Payment Errors

BY GRANT SCHULTE
Associated Press

LINCOLN, Neb. — Nebraska officials failed to properly oversee millions of dollars in Medicaid-related health insurance payments, resulting in possible fraud and payouts for residents who were ineligible, state auditor Mike Foley said Wednesday.

The Republican auditor released a report that said the Department of Health and Human Services failed to analyze the cost-effectiveness of more than \$6.5 million in private health insurance payments. The payments were made for 661 recipients over two and a half years.

"All in all, this program is one grand mess in need of radical surgery," Foley said at a news conference.

The program in question uses state and federal dollars to pay for private insurance when doing so is cheaper than covering the expenses through Medicaid. State auditors reviewed 70 of the most expensive cases and found 53 with errors, which resulted in hundreds of thousands of dollars in erroneous payments.

"I have no doubt that if we had expanded our sample to include more and more people, we would have found the same types of errors — just a lot more of them," Foley said.

Foley said an unidentified female employee in charge of the program was poorly equipped to handle it and wasn't properly supervised. Every month, he said, the employee would prepare a payment spreadsheet and pass it along to the department's accountants, who approved them without checking whether they were accurate or legitimate.

Department officials acknowledged the problem and said they were already working to correct it. The department is reviewing the overpayments and will take action to collect the money, said Vivianne Chaumont, the director of Nebraska's Medicaid and Long-Term Care division.

Chaumont said the department's review of all payments will likely decrease the total amount that was misspent. Department officials reviewed the 70 same cases that auditors studied and concluded that the payments were cost-effective in roughly half, she said.

Department CEO Kerry Winterer said he has hired an internal auditor to monitor the agency and help it comply with thousands of laws and regulations. Winterer said he

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INSIDE TODAY



SDSU Faces Off Against Oregon In Baseball Playoffs ■ 7

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Freeman Police Chief Makes His Initial Court Appearance

BY RANDY DOCKENDORF
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FREEMAN — The Freeman police chief should learn next month whether he will stand trial on three misdemeanor drug charges.

Eric Seitz has been indicted on three counts of obtaining controlled substances concurrently from different medical practitioners, a Class I misdemeanor.

Each charge carries a maximum punishment of one year imprisonment in a county jail and a \$2,000 fine, along with any restitution ordered by the court.

Seitz's initial appearance was held Wednesday in before Magistrate Judge Tami Bern at the Yankton County courthouse. Seitz was not present for the brief proceedings, and no plea was entered on his behalf.

During Wednesday's court hearing, Bern discussed the next step with both sides in the case. Assistant Attorney General Katie Mallery represented the South Dakota attorney general's office, which is handling the prosecution. Yankton attorney Garrett Horn represented the defense.

Bern set a June 26 status hearing for Seitz's case at the Yankton County Courthouse. At that time, a trial date, if needed, will be scheduled.

Bern indicated during Wednesday's proceedings that she wanted to keep the case moving

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Roller Dollz Rolling For A Cause

BY DEREK BARTOS
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Athletes throughout the region will be rolling into Yankton this weekend to help several local causes.

The Sioux Falls Roller Dollz, a not-for-profit roller derby organization, will take on the A-Town Roller Girls of Aberdeen in a 7 p.m. bout Saturday at the Yankton 4-H Ice Arena on Whiting Drive. As part of the special event, both teams will consist of members of other teams throughout the region.

Proceeds will benefit the United Way & Volunteer Services of Greater Yankton.

"I think it's pretty cool," said United Way executive director Lauren Hanson. "It's something different, and I

think that the roller derby leagues across the country do a really good job of empowering woman and giving back to their community. It's a great lesson, not only for young woman, but for a community as a whole."

For most of its bouts, the Roller Dollz team up with local charities, said Marty Westra, Roller Dollz board member. In seven seasons, the Roller Dollz have volunteered numerous hours and donated more than \$45,000 back to local communities, he said.

Westra said the organization chose the United Way for Saturday's bout because it is involved in numerous areas around Yankton.

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PHOTO COURTESY OF CHRIS MCGRATH

Members of the Sioux Falls Roller Dollz, a not-for-profit roller derby organization, will take part in a charity bout this Saturday in Yankton. Proceeds from the event will benefit the United Way & Volunteer Services of Greater Yankton.

'Morning Coffee' Celebrates 25 Years On The Air

BY NATHAN JOHNSON
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For 25 years, Yankton residents have been able to wake up to KYNT AM 1450 for their "Morning Coffee."

Between 7-9 a.m. during the week, the interview show features mostly local guests talking about issues and events pertinent to the Yankton area.

"Last year, for the first time ever, we kept track of how many different guests we had on the show. We had 700 unique guests," said Scott Kooistra, who started the show in 1988 and has hosted it for 15 of its 25 years. "I was very pleased to have that many guests on talking about things in Yankton."

In order to celebrate the milestone, the radio

"Last year, for the first time ever, we kept track of how many different guests we had on the show. We had 700 unique guests."

SCOTT KOOISTRA

station is inviting the public to visit its studio from 7-9 a.m. Friday. Rolls — and, of course, coffee — will be available.

"We might put visitors on the air for a minute or so for an interview," Kooistra added.

Kooistra began hosting a morning show in 1986, and in 1988 he began to have a guest or two during the 7 o'clock hour.

"We decided to start 'Morning Coffee' because

every now and then I'd have guests, but there was nothing regular about it," Kooistra recalled.

In 1992, the show expanded to five days a week. By 1995, it would sometimes extend into the 8 o'clock hour.

When Kooistra departed from KYNT in 2001, "Morning Coffee" continued with various hosts.

By 2005, three segments were aired five days a week at 7:40, 7:50 and 8:20. Today, with Kooistra back at the helm, at least three segments and as many as five segments are aired Monday through Friday.

For the past five years, three of the segments are re-played during the noon hour for "Morning Coffee Reheated."

Kooistra said he had hoped the program would continue after he left in 2001.

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NATHAN JOHNSON/P&D
Scott Kooistra started the "Morning Coffee" segments on KYNT in 1988 and has hosted them for 15 years of their 25-year run. The radio station will invite the public into its studio from 7-9 a.m. Friday to celebrate the anniversary.

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